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COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL,  
CONTINUATION OR CIP)

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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

**TYPE OF DECLARATION**

This declaration is of the following type: *(check one applicable item below)*

- ☒ original  
☐ design

*NOTE: if the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application do not check any of next two items and check appropriate one of at last three items.*

- ☒ national stage of PCT  
☐ supplemental

*NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL , CONTINUATION OR CIP*

- ☐ divisional  
☐ continuation  
☐ continuation-in-part

**INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION**

*WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted)*

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor *(if only one name is listed below)* or an original, first and joint inventor *(if plural names are listed below)* of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**TITLE OF INVENTION**

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**MIXING CARTRIDGE FOR SINGLE-LEVER MIXING FAUCETS**

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**SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION**

the specification of which: *(complete (a), (b) or (c))*

- (a) ☒ is attached hereto.  
(b) ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as ☐ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
or ☐ Express Mail No. , as Serial No. not yet known \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ *(if applicable)*.

*NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO which contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter or encompassed in the statement of invention or claims. See 37 CFR 1.67.*

(c) ☒ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. **PCT/EP2003/011822** filed on **October 24, 2003** and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 (a).

☒ In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement 37 CFR 1.97.

#### PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

(d) ☐ no such applications have been filed.

(e) ☒ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

#### EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
ITALY	MI2002A002328	OCTOBER 31, 2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
WIPO	PCT/EP2003/011822	OCTOBER 24, 2003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

#### ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS (6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION

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## POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(List name and Registration number)*

Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)  
Albert JOSIF (Reg. No. 22,917)  
Daniel J. O'BYRNE (Reg. No. 36,625)

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Via Meravigli, 16  
20123 MILANO – ITALY  
EUROPE

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(Name and telephone number)

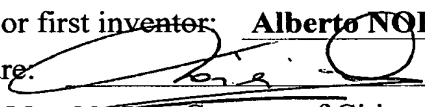
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of any patent issued thereon.

## SIGNATURE(S)

Full name of sole or first inventor: Alberto NOBILI

Inventor's signature: 

Date : January 13, 2005 Country of Citizenship: ITALY

Residence: BORGOMANERO – ITALY

Post Office Address: Via Monte Rosa, 1  
28021 BORGOMANERO – ITALY

Full name of second or joint inventor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of third or joint inventor, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK PROPER BOX(ES) IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDED PAGE(S) FORM A  
PART OF THIS DECLARATION**

☐ Signature for third and subsequent joint inventors. Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Signature by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Signature for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \*

☐ Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (CIP) application.

☐ Number of pages added \_\_\_\_\_.

\* \* \*

If no further pages form a part of this Declaration then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item.

☒ This declaration ends with this page.

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c)) --SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN

Docket Number (Optional):  
**39884/GM/ch**

Applicant or Patentee: **Alberto NOBILI**

Application or Patent

N°.: \_\_\_\_\_

Filing date or Issue date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **MIXING CARTRIDGE FOR SINGLE-LEVER MIXING FAUCETS**

hereby declare that I am

☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:

☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN **CARLO NOBILI S.p.A. RUBINETTERIE**

ADDRESS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN **Via Lagone, 32**

**28021 BORGOMANERO - ITALY**

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

☐ the application identified above.

☐ the patent identified above.

If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention must file separate verified statements averring to their status as small entities, and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a non-profit organisation under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organisation having any rights in the invention is listed below:

☒ No such person, concern, or organisation exists.

☐ Each such person, concern or organisation is listed below:

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organisation having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING: **Alberto NOBILI**

TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER **Managing Director**

ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING: **Via Monte Rosa, 1 - 28021 BORGOMANERO - ITALY**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: **January 13, 2005**